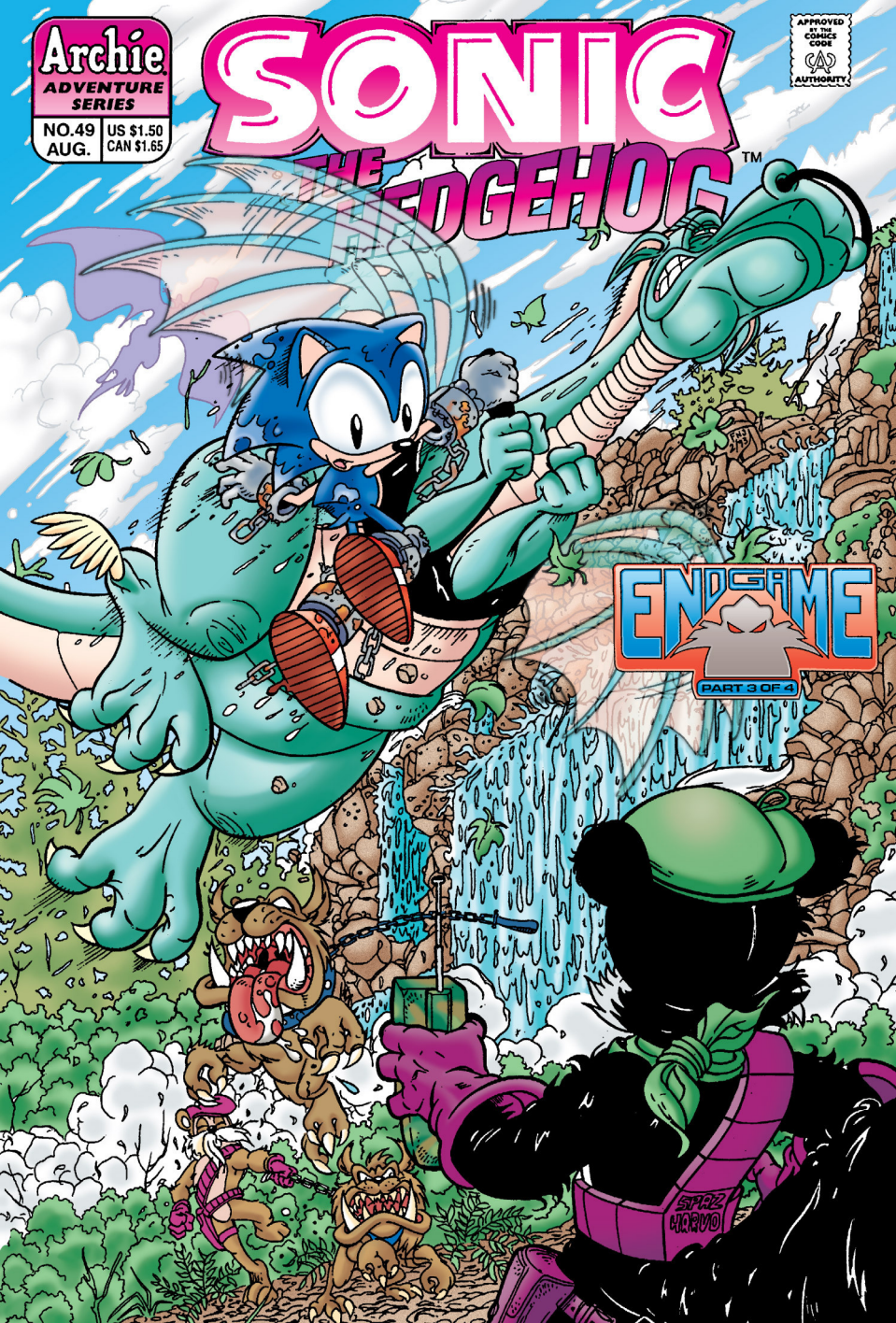
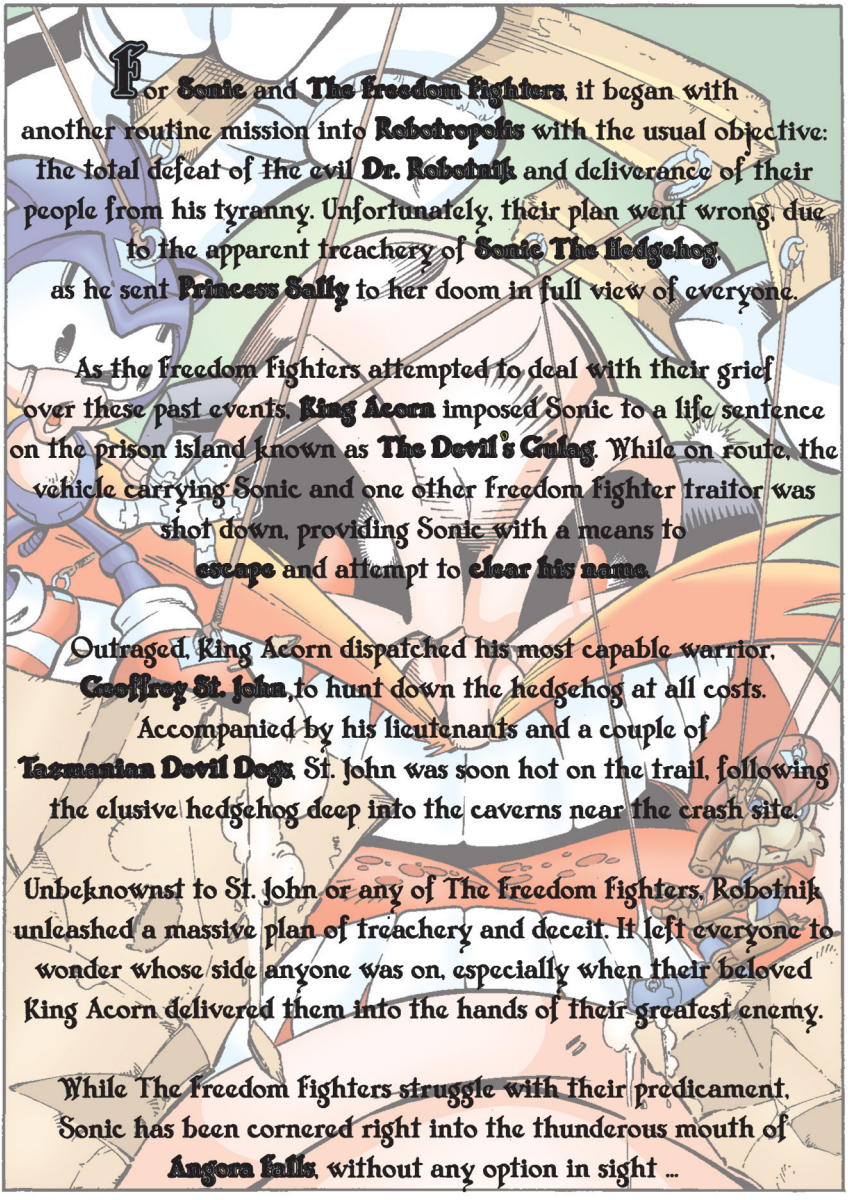
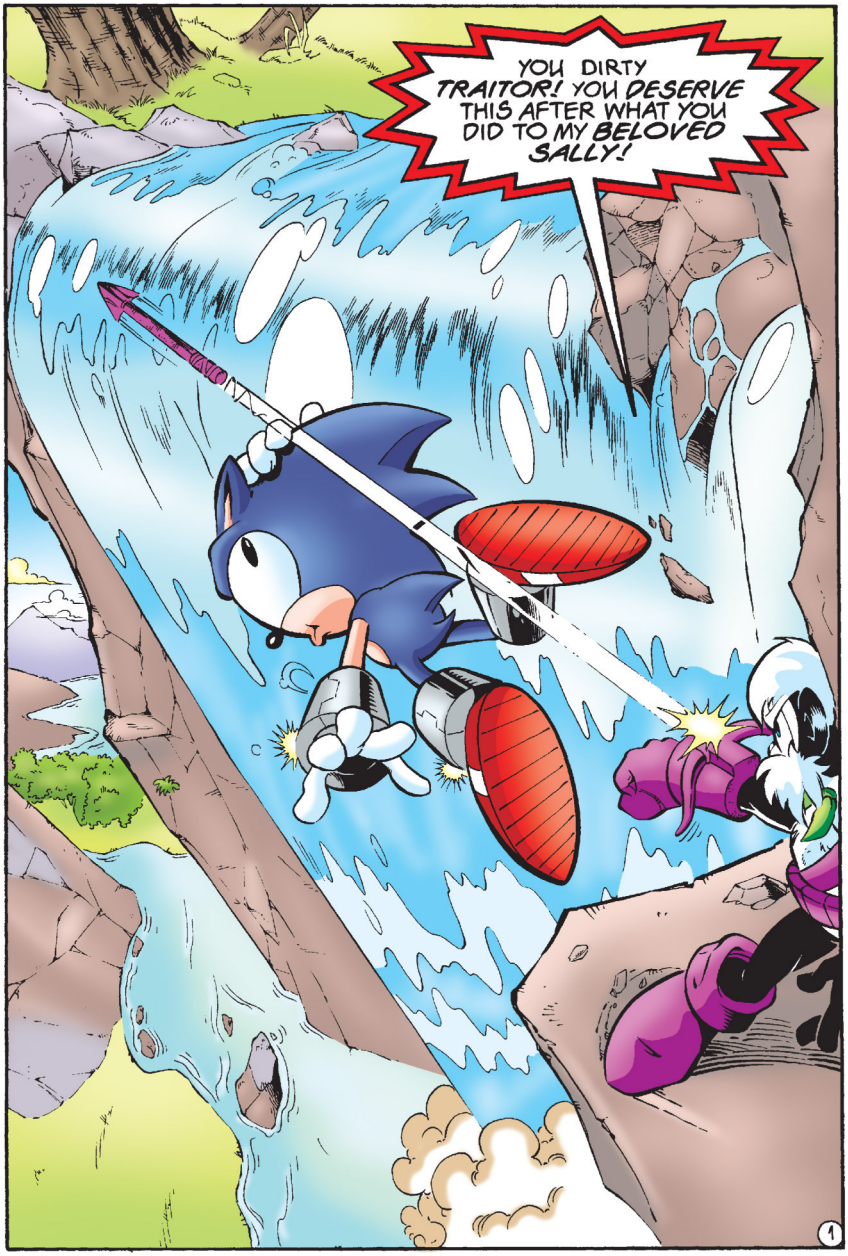
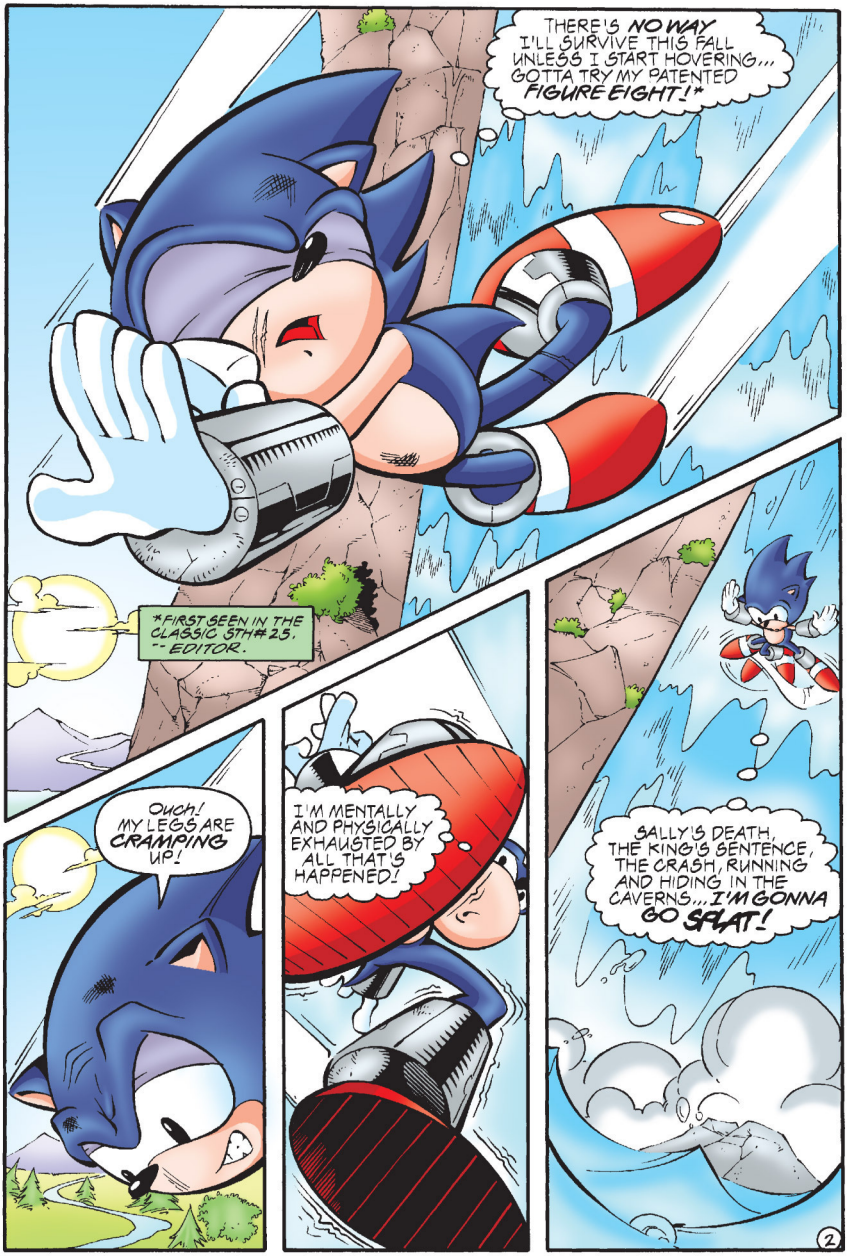
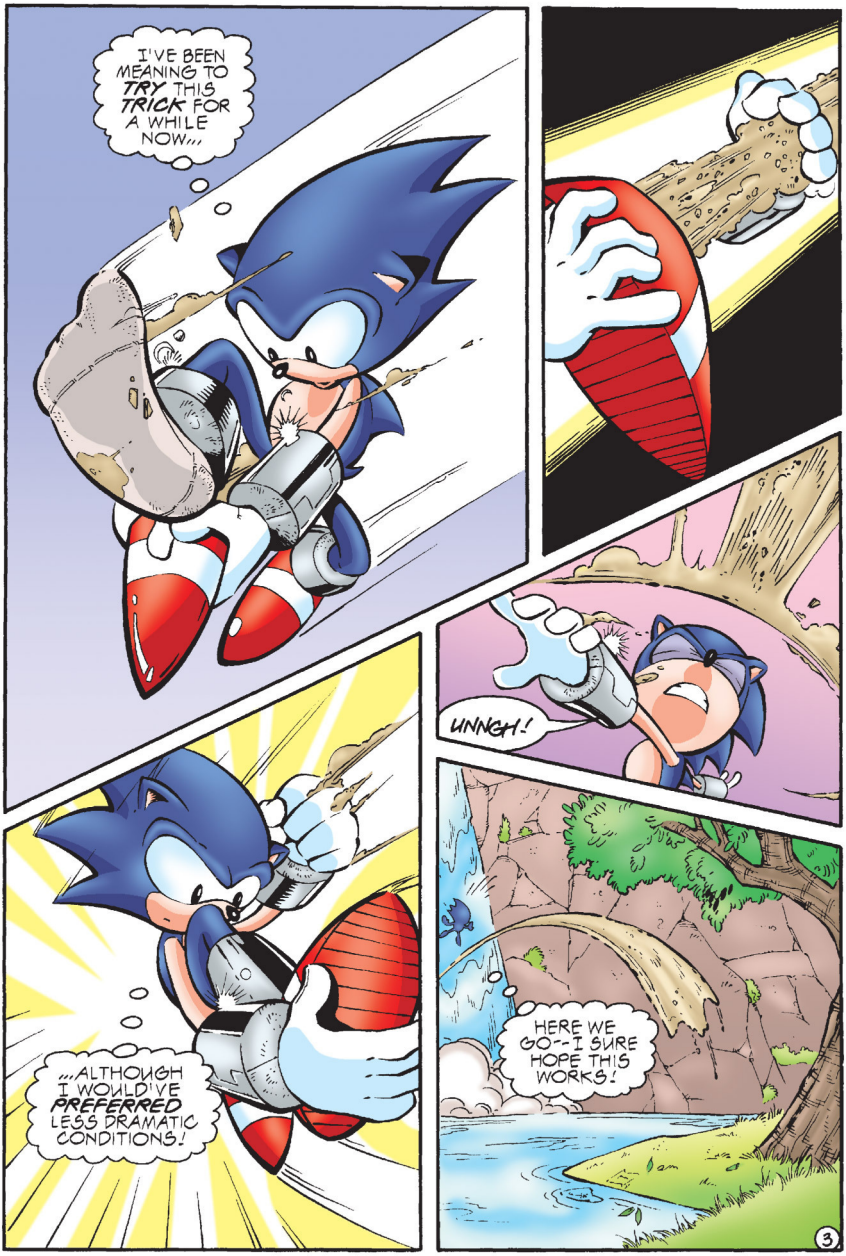

Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.49 AUG.
US $1.50 CAN $1.65
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
END GAME
PART 3 OF 4
STAZ ARCH

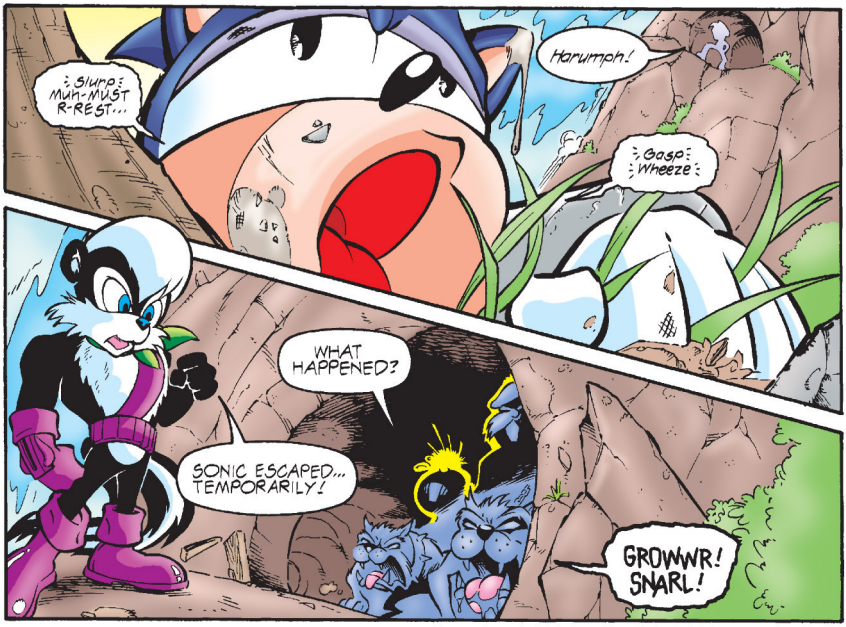

For Sonic and The Freedom Fighters, it began with another routine mission into Robotropolis with the usual objective: the total defeat of the evil Dr. Robotnik and deliverance of their people from his tyranny. Unfortunately, their plan went wrong, due to the apparent treachery of Sonic The Hedgehog, as he sent Princess Sally to her doom in full view of everyone.
As the Freedom Fighters attempted to deal with their grief over these past events, King Acorn imposed Sonic to a life sentence on the prison island known as The Devil's Gulag. While on route, the vehicle carrying Sonic and one other Freedom Fighter traitor was shot down, providing Sonic with a means to escape and attempt to clear his name.
Outraged, King Acorn dispatched his most capable warrior, Geoffrey St. John, to hunt down the hedgehog at all costs. Accompanied by his lieutenants and a couple of Tazmanian Devil Dogs, St. John was soon hot on the trail, following the elusive hedgehog deep into the caverns near the crash site.
Unbeknownst to St. John or any of The Freedom Fighters, Robotnik unleashed a massive plan of treachery and deceit. It left everyone to wonder whose side anyone was on, especially when their beloved King Acorn delivered them into the hands of their greatest enemy.
While The Freedom Fighters struggle with their predicament, Sonic has been cornered right into the thunderous mouth of Angora Falls, without any option in sight ...


YOU DIRTY TRAITOR! YOU DESERVE THIS AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO MY BELOVED SALLY!

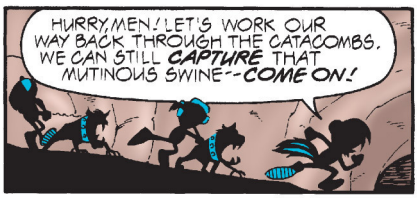

THERE'S NO WAY I'LL SURVIVE THIS FALL UNLESS I START HOVERING... GOTTA TRY MY PATENTED FIGURE EIGHT!*
*FIRST SEEN IN THE CLASSIC STH#25. --EDITOR.
OUCH! MY LEGS ARE CRAMPING UP!
I'M MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY EXHAUSTED BY ALL THAT'S HAPPENED!
SALLY'S DEATH, THE KING'S SENTENCE, THE CRASH, RUNNING AND HIDING IN THE CAVERNS... I'M GONNA GO SPLAT!
2


I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TRY THIS TRICK FOR A WHILE NOW...
UNNGH!
HERE WE GO--I SURE HOPE THIS WORKS!
...ALTHOUGH I WOULD'VE PREFERRED LESS DRAMATIC CONDITIONS!

YEE-HA! ALL I NEED IS A SMALL LANDSTRIP AND MY SPEED WILL GET ME BY!
WHOOUF!
THRUMF


:Slump: MUH-MUST R-REST...
Harumph!
:Gasp: :Wheeze:
WHAT HAPPENED?
SONIC ESCAPED... TEMPORARILY!
GROWWR! SNARL!

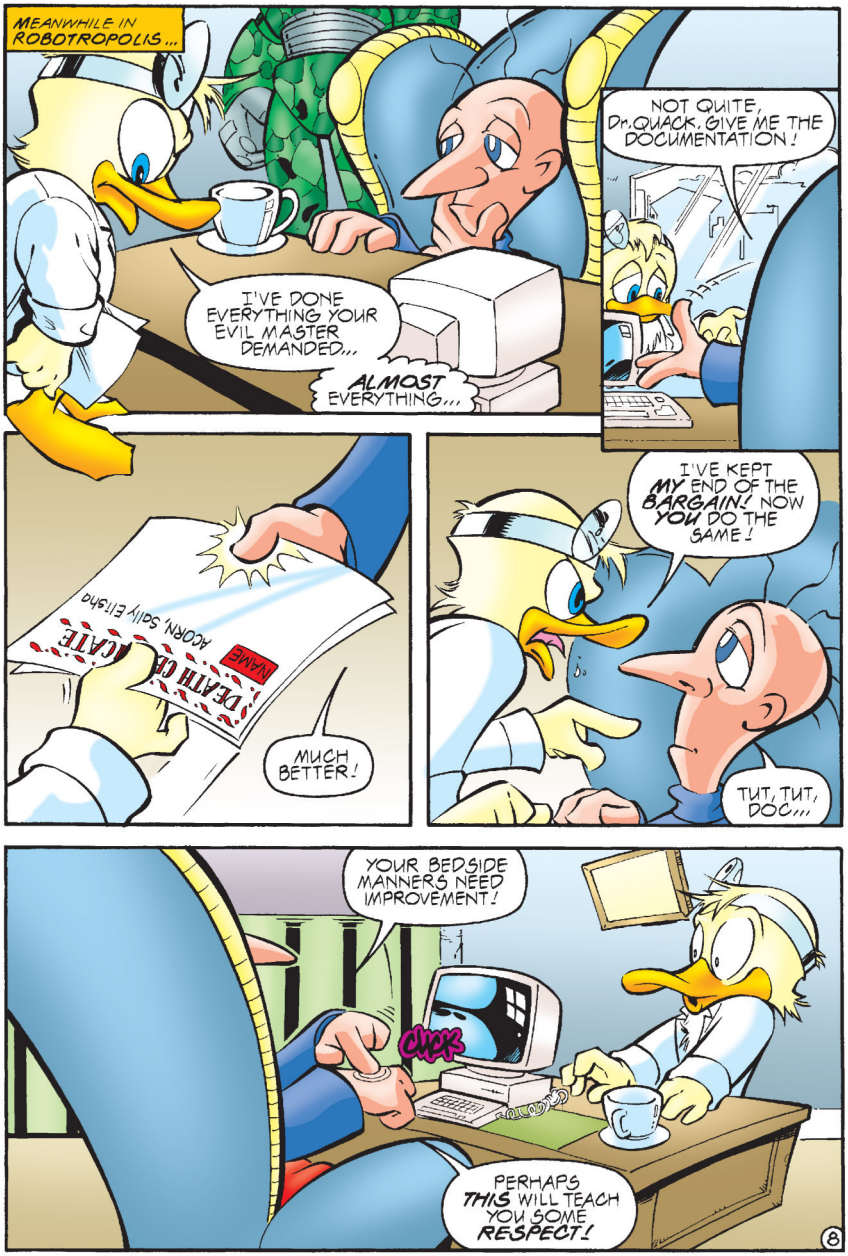
HE'S DOWN THERE...ON THE RIVERBANK!

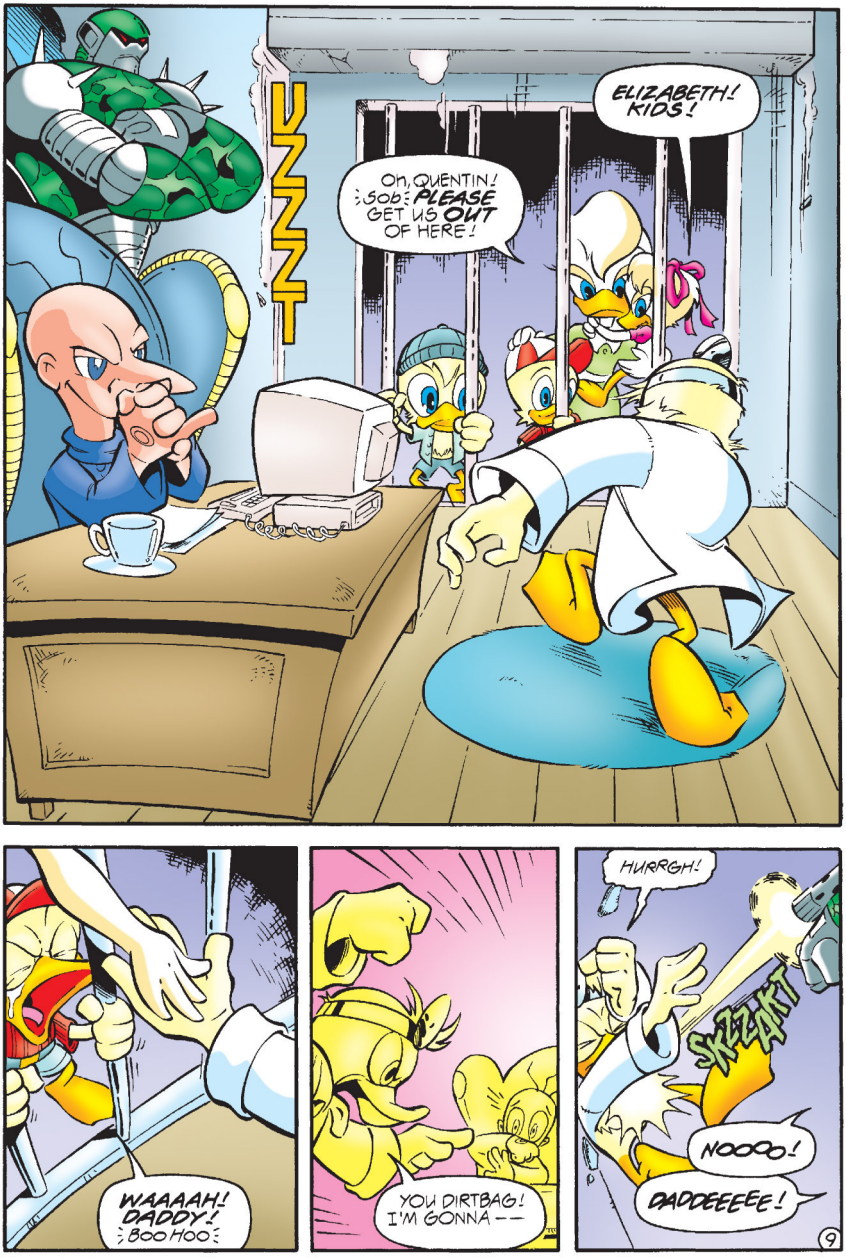

HURRY,MEN! LET'S WORK OUR WAY BACK THROUGH THE CATACOMBS. WE CAN STILL CAPTURE THAT MUTINOUS SWINE--COME ON!

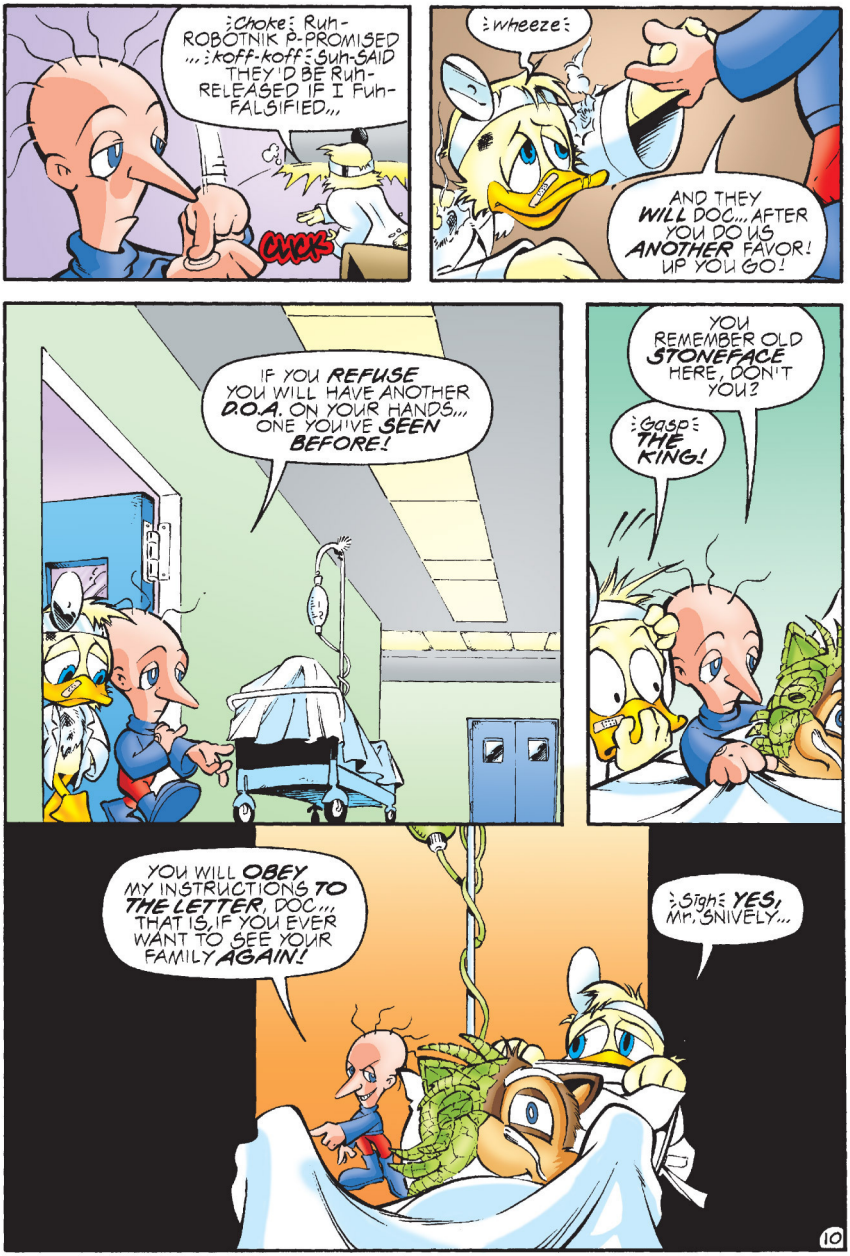
GOTTA KEEP GOING...HAVE TO-- ESCAPE TO PROVE-- INNOCENCE...
GOTTA GET BACK TO...
5

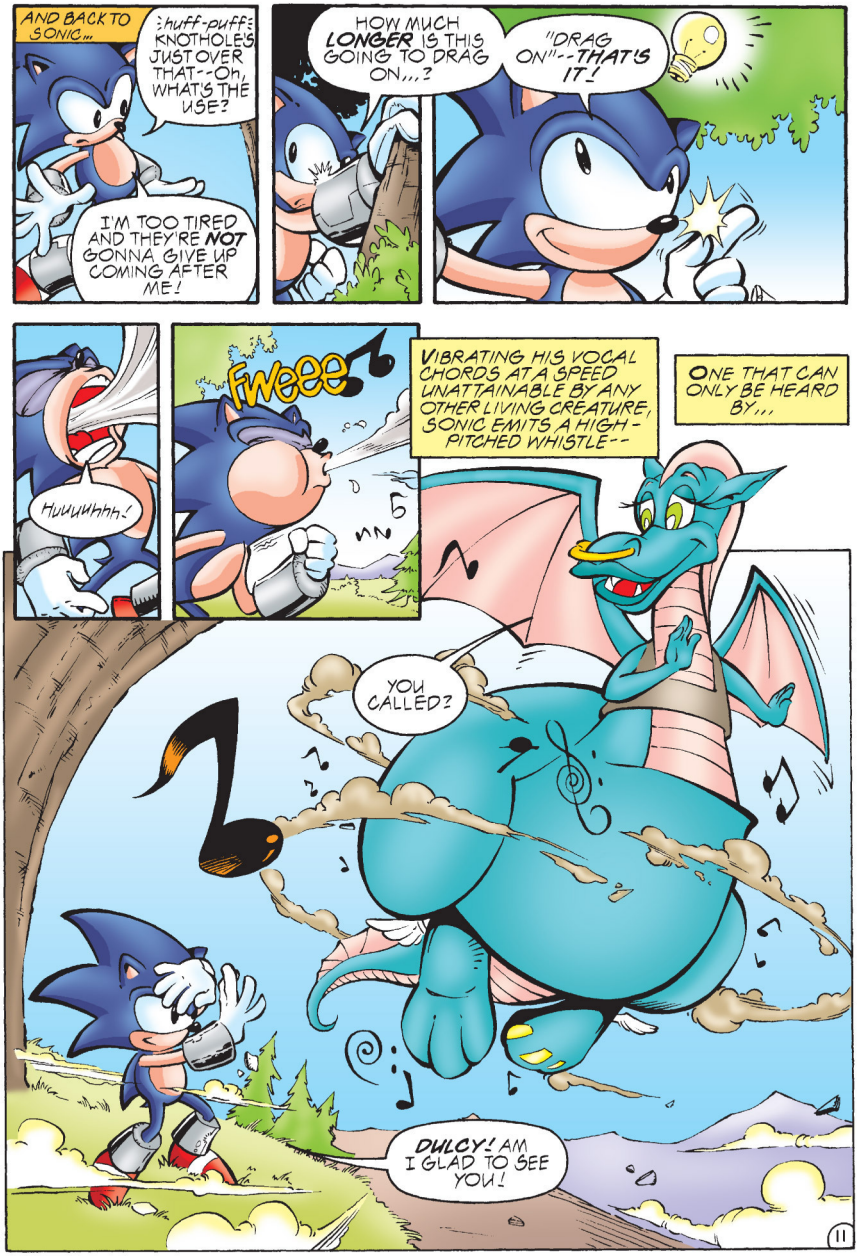
--"KNOTHOLE!"
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™
HAS INDEED BETRAYED YOU!
BUT DESPITE WHAT YOU'RE ALL THINKING, KING ACORN HAS NOT!
FOR THIS IS ANYTHING BUT YOUR BELOVED SOVEREIGN...
BEEP!
WHARROOM
6

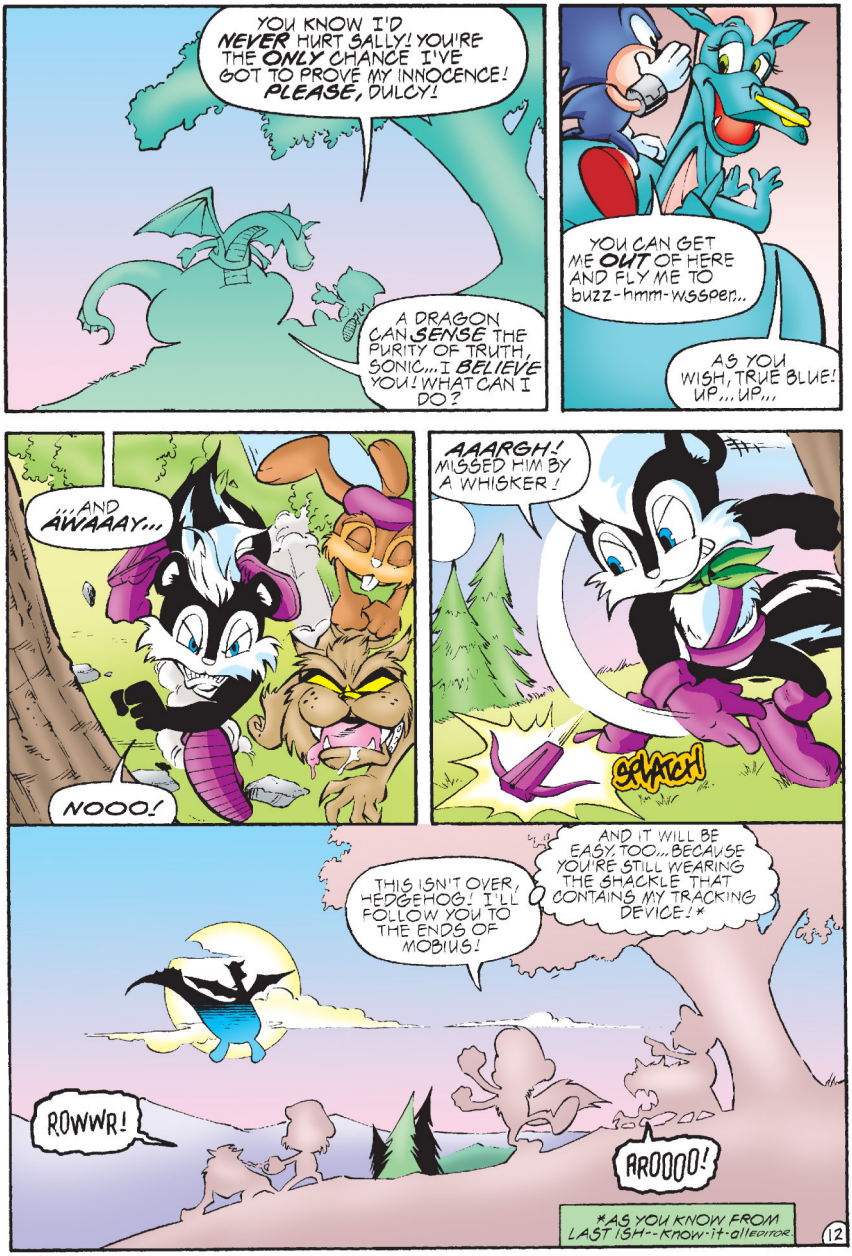
HOW EASILY YOU WERE FOOLED BY A ROBOT DUPLICATE OF THE KING!
KLANG! DANG! CLANG!
:Gasp:
Oh, NO!
YOU FAT FIEND!
SILENCE! BEFORE I HAVE YOU ALL VAPORIZED!
Ah, BUT THAT WOULD BE TOO EASY!
I'D MUCH RATHER SEE YOU PERISH ALONG WITH ALL THE REST OF THE REPULSIVE, NON-ROBOTIC RESIDENTS OF THIS PLANET!
AND SO, I'LL ALLOW YOU MISCREANTS TO LIVE -- FOR A SHORT WHILE...
...UNTIL MY LATEST AND MOST POWERFUL WEAPON OF DESTRUCTION IS FULLY FUNCTIONAL!
THEN EVERY LIVING THING ON MOBIUS WILL BE ANNIHILATED INCLUDING YOUR PRECIOUS MONARCH, WHO'S BEING ATTENDED TO AS I SPEAK...
7


MEANWHILE IN ROBOTROPOLIS...
I'VE DONE EVERYTHING YOUR EVIL MASTER DEMANDED...
ALMOST EVERYTHING...
NOT QUITE, Dr. QUACK. GIVE ME THE DOCUMENTATION!
I'VE KEPT MY END OF THE BARGAIN! NOW YOU DO THE SAME!
TUT, TUT, DOC...
DEATH C
ACATE
NAME
ACORN, Sally Elisha
MUCH BETTER!
YOUR BEDSIDE MANNERS NEED IMPROVEMENT!
CHOK
PERHAPS THIS WILL TEACH YOU SOME RESPECT!


VZZZT
ELIZABETH! KIDS!
Oh, QUENTIN! ;sob; PLEASE GET US OUT OF HERE!
WAAAAH! DADDY! ;BOO HOO;
YOU DIRTBAG! I'M GONNA — —
HURRGH!
SKZZAKT
NOOOO!
DADDEEEEE!
9

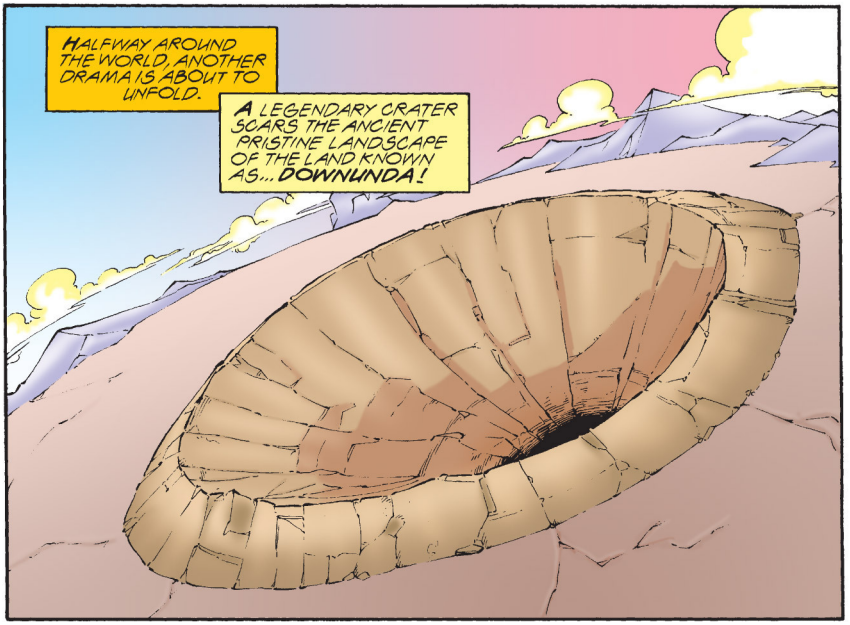

:Choke: Ruh-ROBOTNIK P-PROMISED ,,, :koff-koff: Guh-SAID THEY'D BE Ruh-RELEASED IF I Fuh-FALSIFIED,,,
CLICK
:wheeze:
AND THEY WILL DOC,,, AFTER YOU DO US ANOTHER FAVOR! UP YOU GO!
IF YOU REFUSE YOU WILL HAVE ANOTHER D.O.A. ON YOUR HANDS,,, ONE YOU'VE SEEN BEFORE!
YOU REMEMBER OLD STONEFACE HERE, DON'T YOU?
:Gasp: THE KING!
YOU WILL OBEY MY INSTRUCTIONS TO THE LETTER, DOC,,, THAT IS, IF YOU EVER WANT TO SEE YOUR FAMILY AGAIN!
:Sigh: YES, MR. SNIVELY...

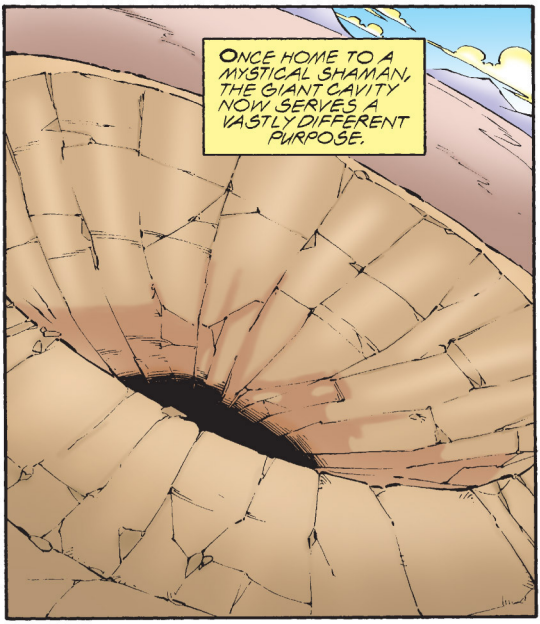

AND BACK TO SONIC...
:huff-puff: KNOTHOLE'S JUST OVER THAT--Oh, WHAT'S THE USE?
I'M TOO TIRED AND THEY'RE NOT GONNA GIVE UP COMING AFTER ME!
HOW MUCH LONGER IS THIS GOING TO DRAG ON...?
"DRAG ON"--THAT'S IT!
Hmmmmm.
Fweee
VIBRATING HIS VOCAL CHORDS AT A SPEED UNATTAINABLE BY ANY OTHER LIVING CREATURE, SONIC EMITS A HIGH-PITCHED WHISTLE--
ONE THAT CAN ONLY BE HEARD BY...
YOU CALLED?
DULCY! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!
11

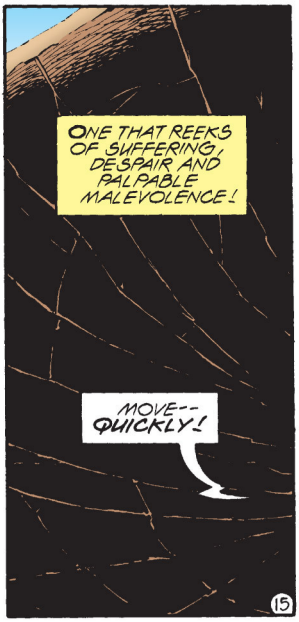

YOU KNOW I'D NEVER HURT SALLY! YOU'RE THE ONLY CHANCE I'VE GOT TO PROVE MY INNOCENCE! PLEASE, DULCY!
A DRAGON CAN SENSE THE PURITY OF TRUTH, SONIC... I BELIEVE YOU! WHAT CAN I DO?
YOU CAN GET ME OUT OF HERE AND FLY ME TO buzz-hmm-wssper..
AS YOU WISH, TRUE BLUE! UP... UP...
...AND AWAAAY...
NOOO!
AAARGH! MISSED HIM BY A WHISKER!
SPLAT!
THIS ISN'T OVER, HEDGEHOG! I'LL FOLLOW YOU TO THE ENDS OF MOBIUS!
AND IT WILL BE EASY, TOO... BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL WEARING THE SHACKLE THAT CONTAINS MY TRACKING DEVICE!*
ROWWR!
AROOOO!
*AS YOU KNOW FROM LAST ISH--KNOW-IT-ALL EDITOR

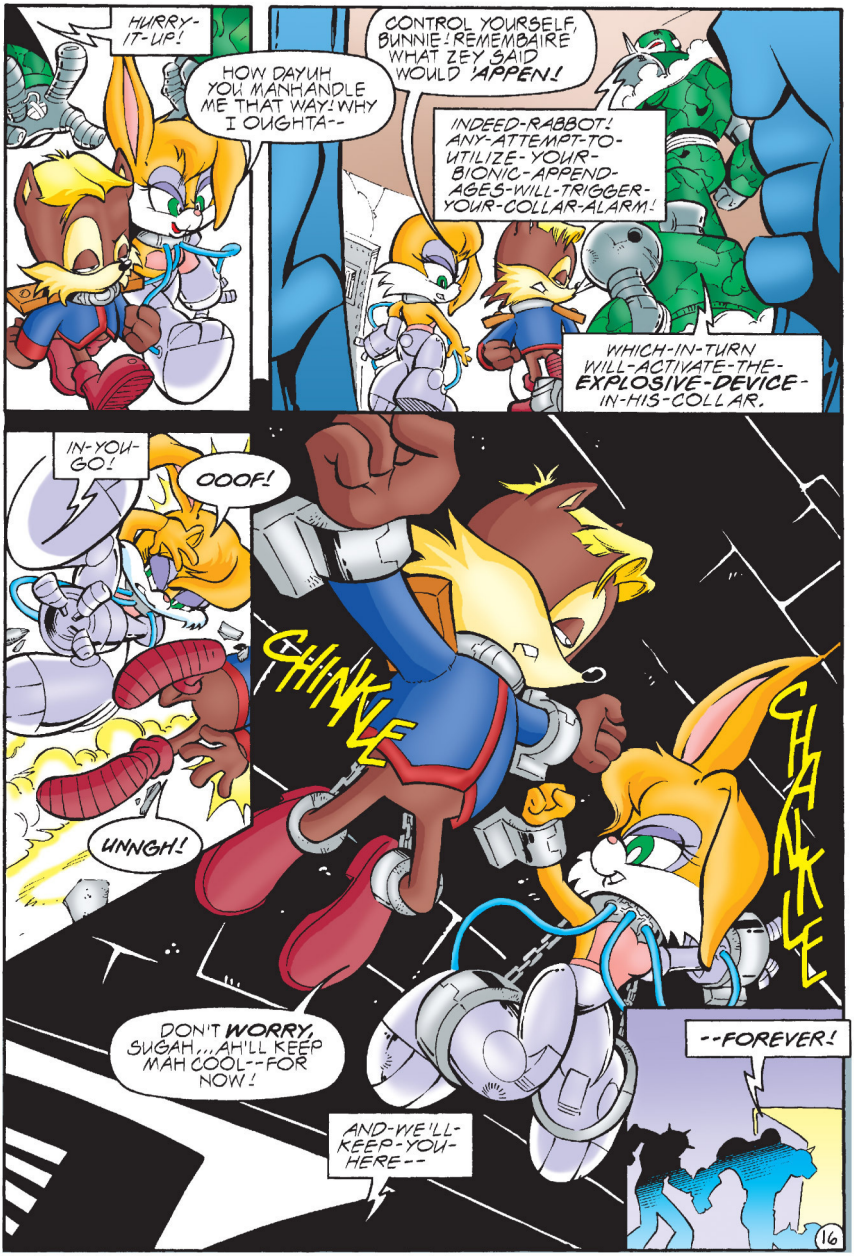
MEANWHILE IN HERSHEY'S COTTAGE...
THIS IS HORRIBLE!
Ah, YOU'LL MAKE A FINE LOOKING DUKE OF MOBIUS, DRAGO MY BOY!
DID YOU HEAR ME? THE PRINCESS WAS KILLED!
SLAP
THAT'S RIGHT, TOOTS! AND YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DID IT!
N-NO! IT CAN'T BE! I...Y-YOU TOLD ME I WAS HELPING THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS! THAT EVIL SNIVELY WAS CLIMBING DOWN THE ROPE--
HA! LIKE THEY SAY, "THERE'S A SUCKER BORN EVERY MINUTE." YOU JUST HAPPENED TO BE COMING ALONG AT THE RIGHT TIME, KIDDO!
PUT THE HEAD BACK ON AND YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN!

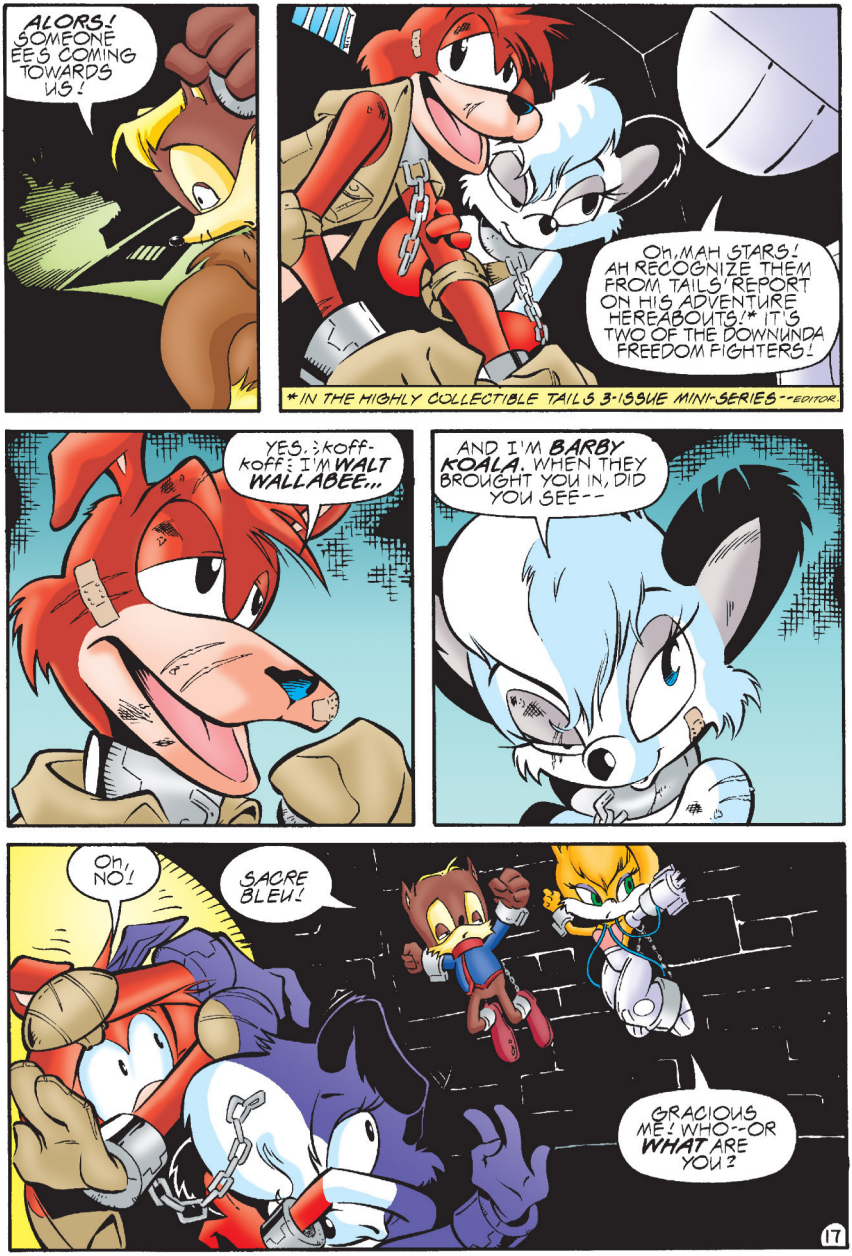
EEEEEEEK!
IT'S HIM! B-BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! IT SHOULD BE ME!
AND YOU LOOK LIKE HIM, TOO! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHAT KIND OF TREACHERY IS THIS?
THE BEST KIND-- ROBOTNIK'S!
SEE THESE EYEPIECES? THEY CONTAIN OPTIC IMAGE REFRACTORS. NO MATTER WHO YOU LOOK AT, IT APPEARS TO BE SNIVELY!
SO WHEN YOU CUT THE ROPE YOU THOUGHT SNIVELY WAS DANGLING FROM, YOU REALLY DROPPED PRINCESS SALLY TO HER DEATH!
HAHAHAAA! YOU WERE EASY TO DUPE, SUGAR! AND NOW ROBOTNIK WILL REWARD ME WITH A KINGDOM OF MY OWN WHEN HE TAKES OVER MOBIUS!
:choke: NO-HO-HO- HOOOO...

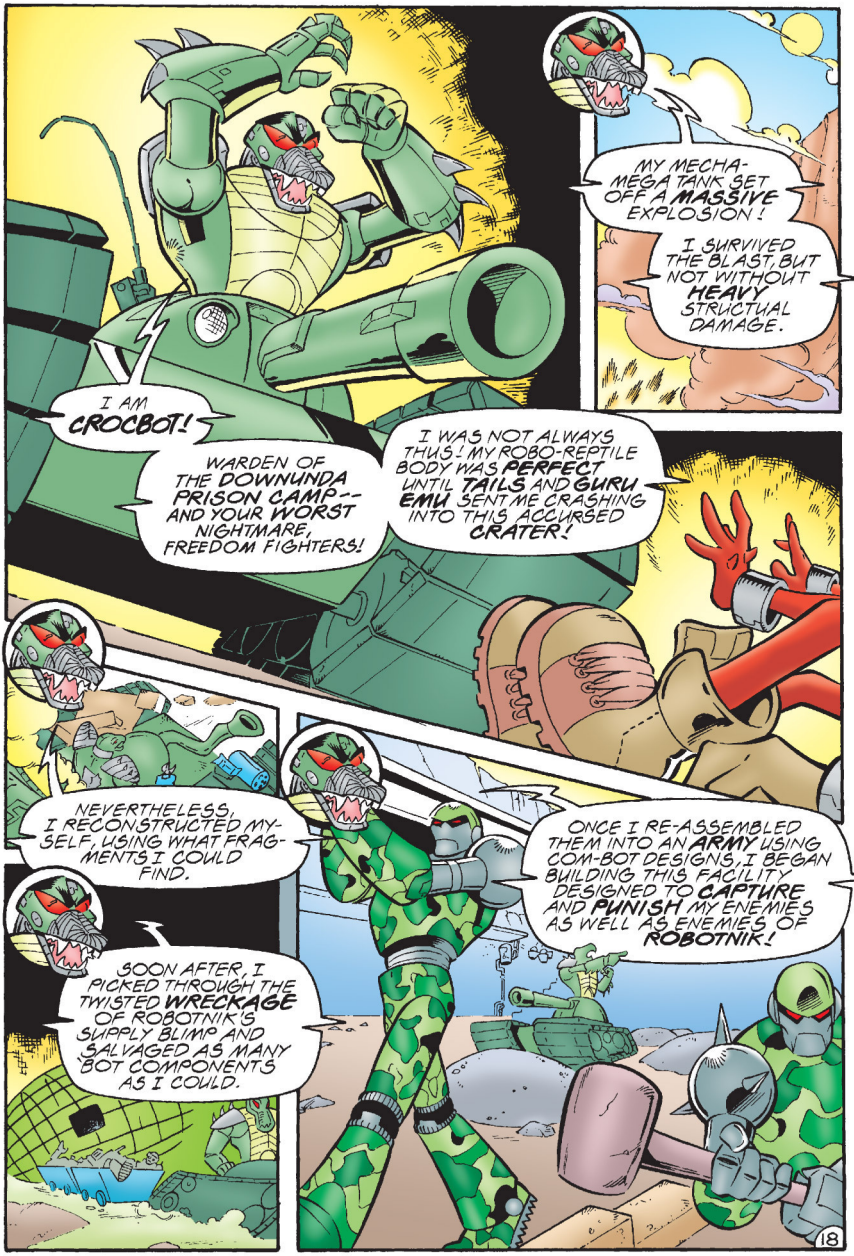

HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD, ANOTHER DRAMA IS ABOUT TO UNFOLD.
A LEGENDARY CRATER SCARS THE ANCIENT PRISTINE LANDSCAPE OF THE LAND KNOWN AS... DOWNUNDA!

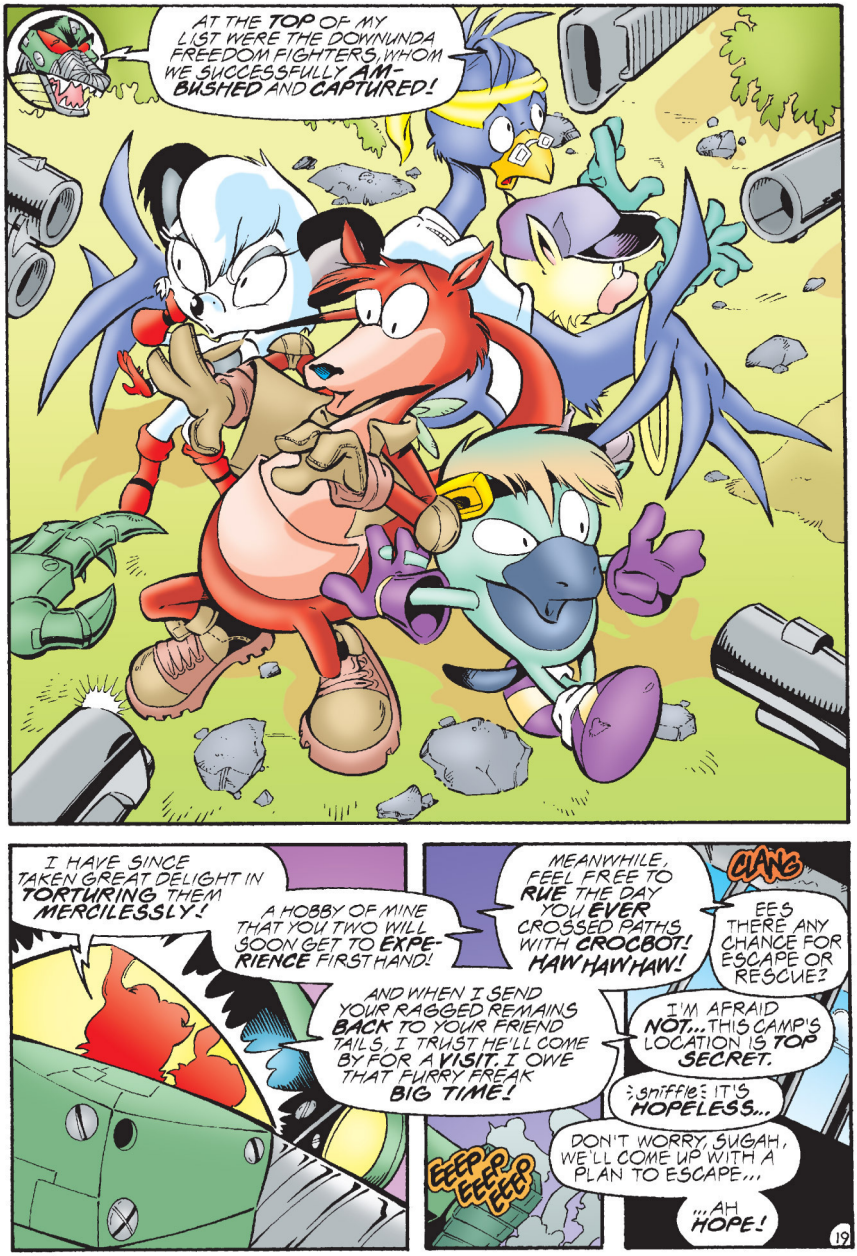

ONCE HOME TO A MYSTICAL SHAMAN, THE GIANT CAVITY NOW SERVES A VASTLY DIFFERENT PURPOSE.

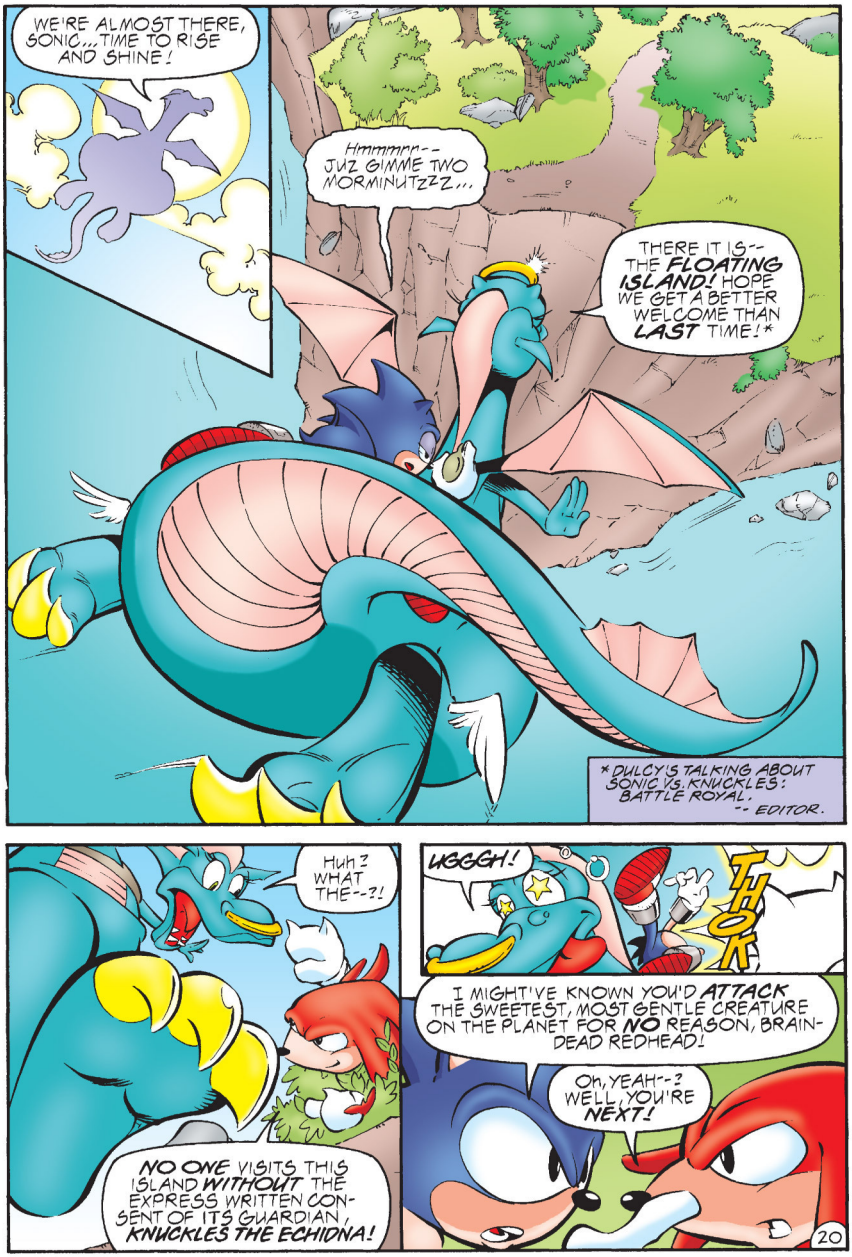

ONE THAT REEKS OF SUFFERING, DESPAIR AND PALPABLE MALEVOLENCE!
MOVE-- QUICKLY!

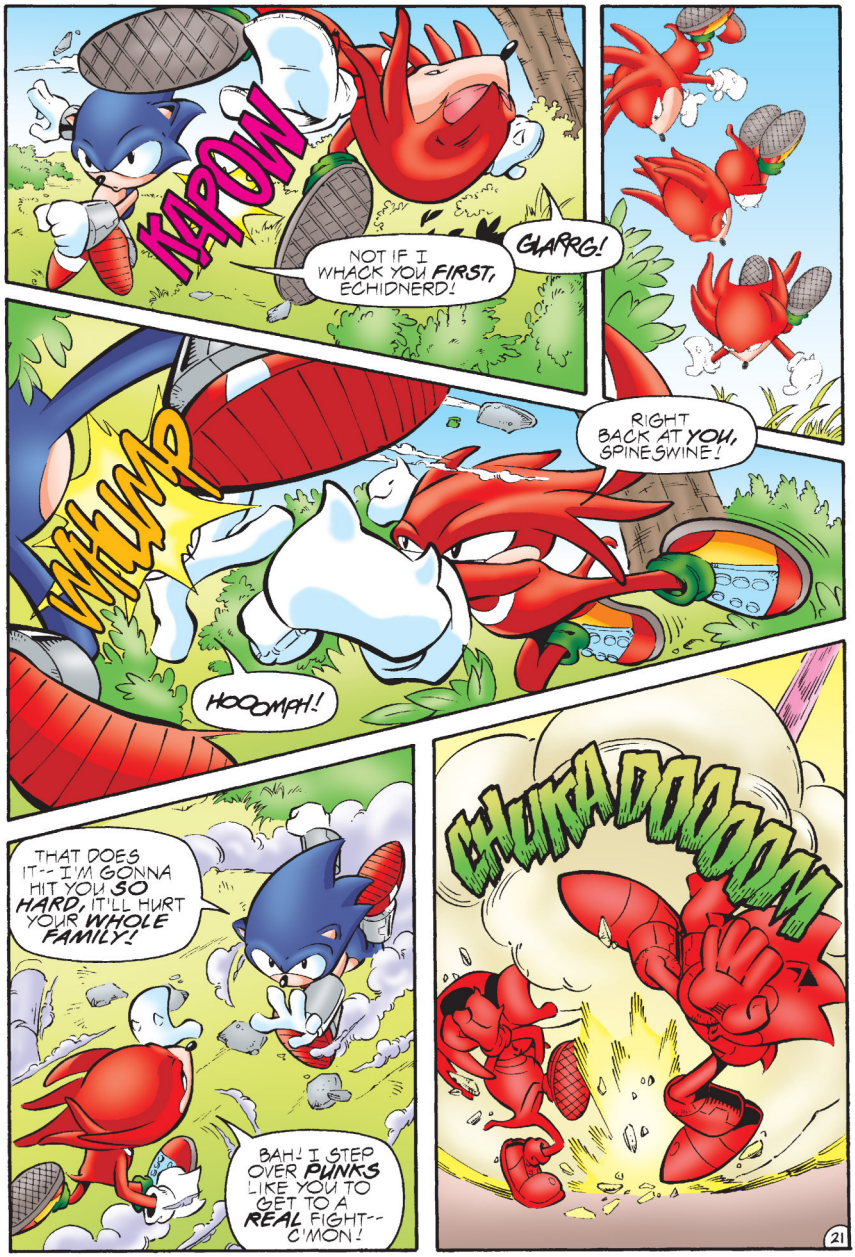

HURRY-IT-UP!
HOW DAYUH YOU MANHANDLE ME THAT WAY! WHY I OUGHTA--
CONTROL YOURSELF, BUNNIE! REMEMBAIRE WHAT ZEY SAID WOULD 'APPEN!
INDEED-RABBOT! ANY-ATTEMPT-TO-UTILIZE-YOUR-BIONIC-APPEND-AGES-WILL-TRIGGER-YOUR-COLLAR-ALARM!
WHICH-IN-TURN WILL-ACTIVATE-THE-EXPLOSIVE-DEVICE-IN-HIS-COLLAR.
IN-YOU-GO!
OOOF!
CHINKLE
CHANKLE
UNNGH!
DON'T WORRY, SUGAH... AH'LL KEEP MAH COOL--FOR NOW!
AND-WE'LL-KEEP-YOU-HERE--
--FOREVER!
16

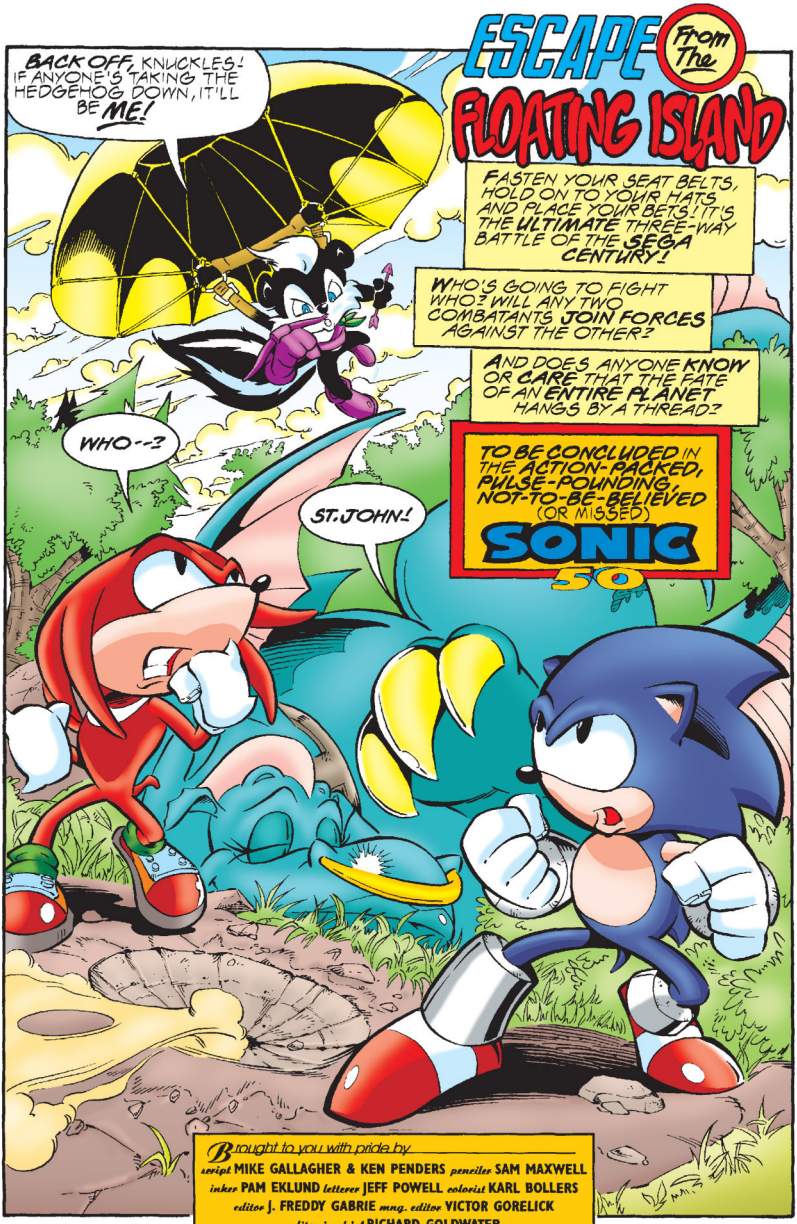

ALORS! SOMEONE EE'S COMING TOWARDS US!
OH, MAH STARS! AH RECOGNIZE THEM FROM TAILS' REPORT ON HIS ADVENTURE HEREABOUTS!* IT'S TWO OF THE DOWNUNDA FREEDOM FIGHTERS!
*IN THE HIGHLY COLLECTIBLE TAILS 3-ISSUE MINI-SERIES--EDITOR.
YES. ;KOFF-KOFF; I'M WALT WALLABEE...
AND I'M BARBY KOALA. WHEN THEY BROUGHT YOU IN, DID YOU SEE--
OH, NO!
SACRE BLEU!
GRACIOUS ME! WHO--OR WHAT ARE YOU?
17


MY MECHA-MEGA TANK SET OFF A MASSIVE EXPLOSION!
I SURVIVED THE BLAST, BUT NOT WITHOUT HEAVY STRUCTUAL DAMAGE.
I AM CROCBOT!
WARDEN OF THE DOWNUNDA PRISON CAMP-- AND YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE, FREEDOM FIGHTERS!
I WAS NOT ALWAYS THUS! MY ROBO-REPTILE BODY WAS PERFECT UNTIL TAILS AND GURU EMU SENT ME CRASHING INTO THIS ACCURSED CRATER!
NEVERTHELESS, I RECONSTRUCTED MYSELF, USING WHAT FRAGMENTS I COULD FIND.
SOON AFTER, I PICKED THROUGH THE TWISTED WRECKAGE OF ROBOTNIK'S SUPPLY BLIMP AND SALVAGED AS MANY 'BOT COMPONENTS AS I COULD.
ONCE I RE-ASSEMBLED THEM INTO AN ARMY USING COM-BOT DESIGNS, I BEGAN BUILDING THIS FACILITY DESIGNED TO CAPTURE AND PUNISH MY ENEMIES AS WELL AS ENEMIES OF ROBOTNIK!


AT THE TOP OF MY LIST WERE THE DOWNUNDA FREEDOM FIGHTERS, WHOM WE SUCCESSFULLY AMBUSHED AND CAPTURED!
I HAVE SINCE TAKEN GREAT DELIGHT IN TORTURING THEM MERCILESSLY!
A HOBBY OF MINE THAT YOU TWO WILL SOON GET TO EXPERIENCE FIRST HAND!
AND WHEN I SEND YOUR RAGGED REMAINS BACK TO YOUR FRIEND TAILS, I TRUST HE'LL COME BY FOR A VISIT. I OWE THAT FURRY FREAK BIG TIME!
MEANWHILE, FEEL FREE TO RUE THE DAY YOU EVER CROSSED PATHS WITH CROCBOT! HAW HAW HAW!
EEEP EEEP EEEP
CLANG
EES THERE ANY CHANCE FOR ESCAPE OR RESCUE?
I'M AFRAID NOT... THIS CAMP'S LOCATION IS TOP SECRET.
;sniffle; IT'S HOPELESS...
DON'T WORRY, SUGAH, WE'LL COME UP WITH A PLAN TO ESCAPE...
...AH HOPE!


WE'RE ALMOST THERE, SONIC... TIME TO RISE AND SHINE!
Hmmmmm-- JUZ GIMME TWO MORMINUTZZZ...
THERE IT IS-- THE FLOATING ISLAND! HOPE WE GET A BETTER WELCOME THAN LAST TIME!*
*DULCY IS TALKING ABOUT SONIC VS. KNUCKLES: BATTLE ROYAL. -- EDITOR.
Huh? WHAT THE--?!
NO ONE VISITS THIS ISLAND WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN CONSENT OF ITS GUARDIAN, KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!
UGGGH!
THOK
I MIGHT'VE KNOWN YOU'D ATTACK THE SWEETEST, MOST GENTLE CREATURE ON THE PLANET FOR NO REASON, BRAIN-DEAD REDHEAD!
Oh, YEAH--? WELL, YOU'RE NEXT!


KAPOW
NOT IF I WHACK YOU FIRST, ECHIDNERD!
GLARRG!
WHUMP
RIGHT BACK AT YOU, SPINESWINE!
HOOOMPH!
THAT DOES IT-- I'M GONNA HIT YOU SO HARD, IT'LL HURT YOUR WHOLE FAMILY!
BAH! I STEP OVER PUNKS LIKE YOU TO GET TO A REAL FIGHT-- C'MON!
CHUKA DOOOM
21


ESCAPE From The FLOATING ISLAND
BACK OFF, KNUCKLES! IF ANYONE'S TAKING THE HEDGEHOG DOWN, IT'LL BE ME!
FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS, HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS AND PLACE YOUR BETS! IT'S THE ULTIMATE THREE-WAY BATTLE OF THE SEGA CENTURY!
WHO'S GOING TO FIGHT WHO? WILL ANY TWO COMBATANTS JOIN FORCES AGAINST THE OTHER?
AND DOES ANYONE KNOW OR CARE THAT THE FATE OF AN ENTIRE PLANET HANGS BY A THREAD?
TO BE CONCLUDED IN THE ACTION-PACKED, PULSE-POUNDING, NOT-TO-BE-BELIEVED (OR MISSED)
SONIC 50
WHO--?
ST. JOHN!
Brought to you with pride by
script MIKE GALLAGHER & KEN PENDERS penciler SAM MAXWELL
inker PAM EKLUND letterer JEFF POWELL colorist KARL BOLLERS
editor J. FREDDY GABRIE mng. editor VICTOR GORELICK
editor-in-chief RICHARD GOLDWATER

SONIC PIN-UP